

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR NURSING

Department of Health Services v.

Gloria Serevitch, L.P.N., License No. 006350

10 Tower Hill Lake Road

Deep River, CT 06417

CASE PETITION NO. 890302-11-005

MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

INTRODUCTION

The Board of Examiners for Nursing (hereinafter the "Board") was presented by the Department of Health Services (hereinafter the "Department") with a Motion For Summary Suspension dated March 6, 1989. The Board was presented by the Department with a Statement of Charges dated March 6, 1989.

The Statement of Charges alleged violations of certain provisions of Chapter 378, Connecticut General Statutes. The Board issued a Notice of Hearing dated March 8, 1989. The hearing took place on April 5, 1989 in Room 112, National Guard Armory, Maxim Road, Hartford, Connecticut.

Each member of the Board involved in this decision attests that he/she has reviewed the record, and that this decision is based entirely on the record and their specialized professional knowledge in evaluating the evidence.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Based on the testimony given and the exhibits offered into evidence, the Board made the following findings of fact:

1. Gloria Serevitch, hereinafter referred to as Respondent, was issued Connecticut Licensed Practical Nurse license number 006350 on May 3, 1961.

2. Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes, Section 4-182(c), the Respondent was provided full opportunity prior to the institution of agency action to show compliance with all the terms for the retention of her license.

3. The Respondent was aware of the Motion For Summary Suspension of her license. Department Exhibit 1 indicates that notice of the Summary Suspension was delivered by Deputy Sheriff Richard W. Albrecht of the County of Middlesex, to the Respondent. The Respondent was aware of the time and location of the hearing. Department Exhibit 1 indicates that notice of the location and time of this hearing were delivered by Deputy Sheriff, County of Middlesex, to the Respondent's address of record. The Respondent was not present nor represented by counsel.

4. The Respondent, while working as a licensed practical nurse at Middlesex Memorial Hospital in Middletown, Connecticut, in October, 1988 and subsequent times thereto, diverted the controlled substance Demerol.

5. The Respondent, while working as a licensed practical nurse at Middlesex Memorial Hospital, in Middletown, Connecticut, in October, 1988 and subsequent times thereto, abused and utilized to excess one or more said medications.

6. The Respondent, while working as a licensed practical nurse at Middlesex Memorial Hospital, in Middletown, Connecticut, in October, 1988 and subsequent times thereto, failed to completely, or properly and accurately make documentations in the medical or hospital records.

7. The Respondent, while working a licensed practical nurse at Middlesex Memorial Hospital, in Middletown, Connecticut, in October, 1988 and subsequent times thereto, falsified one or more Controlled Substance Receipt Records.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The First Count, Subsection 3a, alleges that while employed as a licensed practical nurse at Middlesex Memorial Hospital during October, 1988 and subsequent times thereto, the Respondent diverted the controlled substance Demerol. The Respondent admits this charge (Department Exhibit 1, pp. 17-18).

The above referenced conduct is a violation of Connecticut General Statutes Section 20-99(b)(2), which includes "... (2) illegal conduct, incompetence or negligence in carrying out usual nursing functions...."

The Board has determined that while employed as a licensed practical nurse at Middlesex Memorial Hospital, the Respondent diverted the controlled substance Demerol. Specifically, the Respondent admitted to this activity in a written statement to Drug Control Agent Stanley J. Kornacki, dated January 11, 1989 (Department Exhibit 1, pp. 17-18). Therefore, the Board concludes that Respondent has violated Connecticut General Statutes Section 20-99(b)(2), as specified in the First Count, Subsection 3a.

The First Count, Subsection 3b, alleges that the Respondent abused or utilized to excess said medications.

The above referenced conduct is a violation of the Connecticut General Statutes Section 20-99(b)(5) which includes: "... (5) abuse or excessive use of drugs, including alcohol, narcotics, or chemicals...."

The Board has determined that the diversion of a controlled substance by the Respondent for self administration, without a prescription, constitutes abuse of that substance. Therefore, the Board concludes that the Respondent has violated Connecticut General Statutes Section 20-99(b)(5) as specified in the First Count, Subsection 3b.

The First Count, Subsection 3c, alleges that the Respondent failed to completely or properly or accurately make documentations in the medical or hospital records.

The above referenced conduct is a violation of Connecticut General Statutes Section 20-99(b)(2), which includes "... (2) illegal conduct, incompetence or negligence in carrying out usual nursing functions...."

The Board has determined that the Respondent while working as a licensed practical nurse, at Middlesex Memorial Hospital, in Middletown, Connecticut, failed to completely or properly and accurately make documentations in hospital or medical records. Specifically, the Respondent admitted to this activity in a handwritten statement to Drug Control Agent Stanley J. Kornacki "...I logged a dose of Demerol 75mg as being given to Mrs. Deren, instead I kept medication for my own use" (Department Exhibit 1, p. 17-18). Therefore, the Board concludes that the Respondent has violated Connecticut General Statutes Section 20-99(b)(2), as specified in the First Count, Subsection 3c.

The First Count, Subsection 3d, alleges that the Respondent falsified one or more Controlled Substance Receipt Records.

The above referenced conduct is a violation of Connecticut General Statutes Section 20-99(b)(2), which includes "... (2) illegal conduct, incompetence or negligence in carrying out usual nursing functions...."

The Board has determined that the Respondent falsified one or more Controlled Substance Receipt Records. Specifically, the Respondent admitted to this activity in a handwritten statement to Drug Control Agent Stanley J. Kornacki "...I logged a dose of Demerol 75mg as being given to Mrs. Deren, instead I kept medication for my own use" (Department Exhibit 1, p. 17). Therefore, the Board concludes that the Respondent has violated Connecticut General Statutes Section 20-99(b)(2), as specified in the First Count, Subsection 3d.

ORDER

It is the unanimous decision of those members of the Board of Examiners for Nursing who were present and voting that for each of the Subsections of the First Count:

1. The license of the Respondent be revoked.
2. The date of this revocation shall commence on December 1, 1989.

The Board of Examiners for Nursing hereby informs the Respondent and the Department of Health Services of the State of Connecticut of this decision.

Dated at *Hartford*, Connecticut, this *12th* day of *October*, 1989.

BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR NURSING

BY *Bette Jean M. Murphy*

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